

THE HOPE OF THE RAPTURE

1 Thess. 4:13-18

1 Th 4:13 *But I would not have you to be ignorant.* I don't want you folks to be in the dark ...
Sleep: 2 Pet 3:4; 1 Cor 15:6 Sleep temporary...will wake up...changed into new and glorified body. Like Jesus

...sorrow not... People without Jesus Christ have no hope.

Hope: Faith-produced confidence and expectation of the future.

Those who put faith and trust in Jesus Christ fall asleep, wake up in presence of Jesus. 1 Cor 15:20, 51-52 When Christ comes back to earth ... brings souls of believers

1 Th 4:14 Hendriksen: God "*will cause them to come along with Jesus, from heaven, that is, he will bring their souls along from heaven, so that these may be reunited quickly (in a flash) with their bodies, in which they go forth to meet the Lord in the air, to remain with him forever.*"

1 Th 4:15 Those alive at time of His coming have no advantage over those who have died in Christ. *Prevent:* advantage over; precede

1 Th 4:16-17 First: *Lord descend from heaven with a shout*

Jesus descend.... Every one of us able to see Him. Acts 1:9-11

Shout: authoritative shout. John 5:28-29 At moment of shout-bodies of all born-again Christians quickly leave and be reunited with souls.

Second: *with the voice of the archangel.*

Archangel: ruling angel; leadership over other angels. Chief angel.

A. Cherubim: highest order of angelic beings.

Garden of Eden Gen 3:24

Tabernacle. Ex. 25:17-22

Solomon's temple 2 Chron. 3:10-13

Ezekiel's vision (zekiel 1:1-28; 10:4, 18-22)

Associated with God's glory. Heb. 9:5

B. Seraphim

1. Description: *Burning ones.* Human form. Isa 6:3

2. Design and duties: Priestly type service for God. Recognize God as extremely, perfectly holy. Michael the archangel --created angelic being of the rank of archangel and perhaps cherubim. One of the chief princes Dan 10:13

Jude 1:9 *Yet Michael the archangel, ...Military leader of army of angels in battle with Satan* Rev 12:7

Warning #1 Don't try to fit angels into own fantasy or mold

- Feminine angels in Bible? No!
- People become angels when get to heaven? No!
- Indwell humans? No!
- Spend time earning their wings? No! (
- Get old? No!

Warning #2: Never let angels replace God in thinking and life

David Jeremiah: ... *spiritual fads and tangents like those we see in angel mania are a tool of the enemy to keep us from following hard after God,* (Ps 42:1)

Christianity Today: "*Angels too easily provide a temptation for those who want a 'fix' of spirituality without bothering with God himself.*"

Warning #3: Never worship angels Col 2:18

1 Th 4:16-17 Third: ... *with the trump of God*

Connected with voice of archangel. Michael playing trumpet. Exo 19:16-19

Trumpet used in Zeph 1:16; 9:14 as signal Jehovah coming to rescue people from hostile oppression.

Fourth: *and the dead in Christ shall rise first*

Dead in Christ not at disadvantage. Rise first. Six feet further to go.

Fifth: *Then we which are alive and remain ... Caught up:* seized, plucked, snatched up; carried off by force. Seize and carry off speedily 1 Cor 15:52

Charles Taylor: *The translation of the church will be worldwide, for there are true believers in Jesus Christ in every country on earth, and they all shall be "taken."* ...

In the clouds: cloud of witnesses n Heb. 12:1,2.

to meet the Lord in the air: Jesus doesn't touch down

Meet: official welcome given to newly arrived dignitary.

Hend: *Once the Lord appears upon the clouds of heaven and begins to descend, there will be no opportunity for conversion. His coming is absolutely decisive. He comes not to convert but to judge.* 2 Th 2:8; Mat 25:41

1 Th 4:18 Comfort: *To call alongside, encourage.*